

Lesson
3

Linking Verbs and Predicate Words

Teaching

A linking verb connects the subject of a sentence to a word or words in the predicate. This word is called a **subject complement**. The subject complement identifies or describes the subject. Some common linking verbs are *is*, *feel*, *seem*, and *look*.

Costumes **are** clothing. (linking verb: *are*; subject complement: *clothing*)

Some costumes **look** fancy. (linking verb: *look*; subject complement: *fancy*)

There are two kinds of subject complements.

A **predicate noun** is a noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb and identifies, renames, or defines the subject.

Uniforms **are** my favorite costumes. (The predicate noun *costumes* identifies the subject, *uniforms*.)

A **predicate adjective** is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes or modifies the subject.

That uniform **looks** really cool. (The predicate adjective *cool* describes the subject, *uniform*.)

Identifying Linking Verbs and Predicate Words

In each sentence, underline the subject once and the verb twice. Write the predicate word on the line to the right.

1. Flamenco is a traditional dance from southern Spain. _____
2. Brightly colored dresses are the costume of female flamenco dancers. _____
3. These beautiful dresses look frilly. _____
4. The skirts are ruffled. _____
5. Flowers are part of the women's costumes. _____
6. The dancers' jewelry looks colorful. _____
7. Their shoes sound noisy. _____
8. The men's bolero jackets seem short. _____
9. Do the jackets feel tight? _____
10. A key part of the costume is a black hat. _____
11. Flamenco dancers seem very energetic. _____
12. Are Spanish Gypsies the best flamenco dancers? _____

Linking Verbs and Predicate Words

More Practice

A. Identifying Linking Verbs and Predicate Words

In each sentence, underline the subject once and the verb twice. Write the predicate noun or predicate adjective on the line to the right.

1. A traditional Japanese garment is a kimono. _____
2. A kimono is a robe like a wraparound for the body. _____
3. Today, kimonos are clothing for special occasions only. _____
4. An obi is a sash around a kimono. _____
5. Zori are thong sandals. _____
6. Pink kimonos seem popular with young girls. _____
7. Black is the color of a formal kimono for married women. _____
8. The silk kimono with the floral design seems expensive. _____
9. This cotton kimono feels comfortable. _____
10. The wedding kimono with the crane design looks beautiful. _____

B. Using Predicate Words

Complete each sentence by writing a predicate complement in the blank. In the parentheses following the sentence, write **PN** if you added a predicate noun or **PA** if you added a predicate adjective.

1. The brown cowboy boots with the pointy toes look _____. (____)
2. My favorite shoes are my _____. (____)
3. For us, the favorite costume day is _____. (____)
4. At New Year's Eve, people are usually _____ about a new beginning. (____)
5. The clothing of party-goers seems particularly _____. (____)
6. Their noise-makers sound especially _____ at midnight. (____)
7. The uniforms of sports teams are, in a sense, a _____. (____)
8. This bicycle helmet feels _____. (____)
9. Those flippers worn by scuba divers are _____. (____)
10. Snowshoes appear _____, but they are effective. (____)

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In each sentence, underline the subject once and the verb twice. Write the predicate word on the line to the right. After the predicate word, identify it by writing **PN** for predicate noun or **PA** for predicate adjective.

EXAMPLE Many knights of the king were soldiers in armor. *soldiers, PN*

1. For many centuries, the costume of a rich soldier was armor. _____
2. Mail armor is rings of iron in a linked pattern. _____
3. Suits of armor appear very uncomfortable. _____
4. Plate armor from the 15th century is solid metal. _____
5. A gauntlet is plate armor for a knight's hand and wrist. _____
6. A suit of armor felt hot in the sun. _____
7. The fasteners for a knight's armor were leather straps. _____
8. Did walking knights sound creaky? _____

B. Using Linking Verbs and Predicate Words

Change the predicate word for each sentence in Exercise A. When possible, replace predicate nouns with predicate adjectives, and predicate adjectives with predicate nouns. Add other words in the predicate as needed.

EXAMPLE Many knights of the king were loyal followers. *OR*

Many knights of the king were courageous.

1. For many centuries, the costume of a rich soldier was _____
2. Mail armor is _____
3. Suits of armor appear _____
4. Plate armor from the 15th century is _____
5. A gauntlet is _____
6. A suit of armor felt _____
7. The fasteners for a knight's armor were _____
8. Did walking knights sound _____?